Mr. P. S. Kesavan Numbudiri.—May I know Sir whether these are agricultural wages or factory wages ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—These are factory wages.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know why no information was given about the agricultural wages ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The question was mainly with regard to factory wages.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know whether the hours of work are uniform in these factories ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No; they are not.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Do the Minimum wages shown here for the different Taluks, represent the whole wages irrespective of the number of hours of work ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I suppose they have taken an average of 8 or 10 hours and struck the figure on that basis.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—About the average hours of work a question was put for this meeting and it has not been answered yet.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I never knew that these two should come together. There is hardly any relation between the two. I do not remember which is the particular question the Hon'ble Member refers to, but I do distinctly remember that a question about the hours of work in the several factories of the State is being answered. I do not think that it has any specific reference to this question.

Ratio of skilled personnel to the number of workers—Increasing of.

313. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—With reference to Questions Nos. 74 and 75 dated 1st August 1933, regarding the importance of increasing the ratio of our skilled personnel to the number of our workers in view of the inevitable industrialisation in the country for solving unemployment, will the Government supply the statistics, mentioned in their assurance, "The matter will be considered after obtaining the necessary satistics"?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—No statistics are available in the matter.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Was not the assurance given during the answer under reference that the matter will be considered after obtaining the necessary statistics ? Now the answer given

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is, no statistics are available. When once the Government has made a promise should it not be acted upon ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—It is true Sir that my predecessor in office promised to make an attempt in that direction. All that I can say is he is more optimistic than I am. I found it impossible to make this attempt. The present head of the Department finds it impossible to make an attempt in that direction. I will read the question Sir. "Regarding the importance of increasing the ratio of our skilled personnel to the number of our workers in view of the inevitable industrialisation in the country for solving unemployment". If any Member in this House will tell me what it is, I shall attempt it.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is it the Hon'ble Member's position that his predecessor knew more ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Probably he was optimistic. I am not.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Does not the Hon'ble Member think that this is a very vital question very intimately related to the general economic welfare of the citizens ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Before I may concede I should know what the matter is. My position is that I have not been able to find out what it is all about. If the Hon'ble Member tells me, I shall make an attempt.

Mr. A. Sivarama Menon.—If a question is not clear are there not rules which suggest to the Government that reference may be made ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The question is answered, I suppose. There are no rules to that effect.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—If the Hon'ble Member for Revenue thinks that the question was not clear why is it that straight forward answer was not given and why the answer is given as no statistics are available. Was the answer given without understanding the question ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I thought I will put it in this way without saying the other way. I was more courteous. No statistics are available upon this matter which seems to me to be incomprehensible.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is it the Hon'ble Member's position that the meaning of the expression "Ratio of skilled personnel to the number of workers" is not intelligible ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Every word, I know, but the combination is inscrutable;

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Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—If the question is worded like this: "Conceive there are hundred labourers. How many of them are skilled workers—there is what is called skilled and unskilled labour—and how many of them are unskilled labourers", could it have been answered ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I will maintain that the question is intelligible but I still affirm that it is impossible to collect statistics. In any industrial concern if you ask how many workers are unskilled, the question is intelligible but the process of eliciting the skilled from the non-skilled would be difficult.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—I suppose the factories do not maintain any such record.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—No. They are all paid a uniform rate and no difference is made between a skilled worker and an unskilled worker. The question no doubt is intelligible but the process will be very difficult. If the Hon'ble Member wants the information with reference to any particular industry an attempt can be made to ask the owners how many of the workers are skilled and how many of them are unskilled.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Statistics need not be collected in that way.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—If you put a proportion of skilled to unskilled, we have to find out for the collection of statistics the number employed in each industry, the number of skilled workers and unskilled workers in that industry and then an attempt may be made to collect statistics in that direction.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Has the economic survey anything to do with this matter ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—This point I don't think has been precisely referred to the economic survey but I suppose the ultimate report may give the amount of work and the ability of workers. I cannot give any assurance on that.

Mr. A. Sivarama Menon.—In the general language of Economics is there not a general well-known distinction between skilled workers and unskilled workers ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I know there are skilled workers in an Industry but when there are workers in an industry I am not aware of any such distinction there.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is there any reason to believe that it has a meaning beyond the ordinary meaning ?

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Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—There was reasons to doubt because I maintain that the ratio of skilled personnel means nothing.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—I am only making a request to the Hon'ble Member for Revenue, whether he will not be pleased to make an attempt.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I shall make an attempt if the question is made specific.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—All the industries were included and not one particular industry. But since the Hon'ble Member has not cared to understand it I shall be satisfied if an honest attempt is made by him.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—In what direction ? If my Hon'ble friend will be more specific and state what industry should be taken I shall make an attempt. Am I to take all the industries in the State to find out the number of labourers ?

President.—That is what is wanted.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I cannot make any promise without taking Government orders.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know whether statistics are available in any of the Presidencies ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—So far as I know there is none.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—So far as I also know there is none.

Mr. A. Sivarama Menon.—Expressions of opinion on the floor of the House may not advance our cause very much but certainly any report on these subjects will give the figures and the distinction between the two classes of workers.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Is there any distinction between a skilled worker and an unskilled worker ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—A skilled worker is one who is skilled in the process of work and an unskilled worker is one who has no skill in the processes of work.

Housing problem in the State.

314. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to Question No. 82, dated 1st August 1933, regarding the main aspects of the general housing problem in the State, will the Government supply the information, bearing to Ernakulam, Mattancheri, Trichur and Cranganur?

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